

From the Editor

Do you ever feel as if we have it backward—as if we're talking about missile defense before assessing threats, choosing weapon systems before nailing down a strategy, losing officers when we need them most? If you feel unnerved, this issue of *Military Review* might confirm your suspicions but, at the same time, remind you that good minds are taking on the challenges.

In the opening selection, Lieutenant General Mike Steele discusses findings from the Army Training and Leader Development Panel's recent surveys of officer attitudes and concerns. A follow-on article in the September-October 2001 issue will discuss specific recommendations and directions that officers can expect to see in coming months, even as the noncommissioned officer panel is under way here at Fort Leavenworth and around the Army.

Whether the manifestation is suitcase nukes, computer network attacks or low-tech truck-bombs, the featured theme in this issue is contemporary and compelling: what do we do about terrorism and other forms of asymmetric warfare? Authors discuss asymmetric combat from different perspectives, ultimately offering solutions ranging from concepts to doctrine to training.

How the Army prepares to fight and win war is changing to deal with such emerging threats. Deployability is at the heart of many initiatives, and authors address that imperative from different angles as well. We need to be lighter to get overseas in time—do we need forces and equipment even lighter than currently projected to assure mobility once in theater? What about fire support during the vulnerable entry phase? Battleships that can steam 500 miles in 24 hours and obliterate the landscape from 25 miles offshore now lounge around the pool at the Old Ships' Home.

Organizations and systems aside, it will be Army leaders who assure victory, and the institution must support field commanders with both intellectual preparation and operational guidance. In particular, during peacekeeping they must understand social dynamics and clearly grasp the relationship between force protection and mission accomplishment—all underwritten by effective decisionmaking procedures.

It's been a long, hard, rewarding ride. I retire at the end of June, and this is my last editorial for *Military Review*. Colonel Melanie Reeder comes aboard from I Corps and Fort Lewis, Washington, to take the reins. Keep the faith.

LJH

